

Amendments to the claims:

This listing of claims replaces all previous versions and listings of claims:

1. (currently amended) A multi-layer footwear component, including:
 ~~at least~~ a first layer comprising multi-component fibers of thermoplastic polymers, each of the multi-component fibers further comprising
 a core of thermoplastic polymer being at least 20 and less than 70% of the fiber by weight, and
 a sheath being more than 30% of the fiber by weight and including (i) a thermoplastic polymer and (ii) an anti-microbial/anti-fungal inorganic additive being from 0.1% to 20% by weight of fiber, the thickness of the sheath in microns being approximately two times the nominal particle size in microns of the additive; and
 ~~at least one further~~ second layer proximate the first layer providing support thereto.
2. (currently amended) The footwear component of claim 1, forming a footwear component selected from the group consisting of an insole, midsole, box toe, counter, and ~~or~~ lining.
3. (original) The footwear component of claim 1, wherein the anti-microbial fiber is used in the layer which is nearest the foot of a wearer.
4. (original) The footwear component of claim 1, further comprising a support layer of latex attached to the layer containing the anti-microbial fiber.

~~{i.e., for a military boot-like construction}~~
5. (currently amended) A multi-layer laminate, comprising:
 two internal layers having ~~of~~ high porosity therebetween ~~two internal layers thereof~~, one of which is bonded to the other with lateral fibers traversing parts of both

layers, one or both of the two internal ~~sueh~~ layers including multi-component fibers of thermoplastic polymers, each fiber including

a core of thermoplastic polymer being at least 20 and less than 70% of the fiber by weight, and

a sheath being more than 30% of the fiber by weight and including (i) a thermoplastic polymer and (ii) an anti-microbial/anti-fungal inorganic additive being from 0.1% to 20% by weight of fiber, the thickness of the sheath in microns being approximately two times the nominal particle size in microns of the additive, and means for acquiring moisture vapor into the laminate and trapping it there, one of the internal layers having higher strength properties than the other and the other having a higher moisture retention capacity.

6. (original) The laminate of claim 5, formed as an insertable/removable insole for a shoe or the like.

7. (currently amended) An anti-microbial footwear component, including:

~~at least~~ a first layer comprising bi-component fibers, each of the bi-component fibers further comprising

a core of a high tenacity polymer being at least 20 and less than 70% of the fiber by weight, and

a sheath of a hydrolysis resistant polymer being at least 30% of the fiber by weight, and including an additive ranging from 0.1 % to 20 % by weight of the fiber and being selected from the group consisting of pigments, compounds creating a hydrophilic surface, and anti-microbial, anti-fungal and anti-odor materials; and

~~at least one further~~ second layer proximate the first layer providing support thereto.

8. (currently amended) The footwear component of claim 7, forming a footwear component selected from the group consisting of an insole, midsole, box toe, counter, and/or ~~and~~ lining.

9. (original) The footwear component of claim 7, wherein the anti-microbial fiber is used in the layer which is nearest the foot of a wearer.
10. (original) The footwear component of claim 7, further comprising a support layer of latex attached to the layer containing the anti-microbial fiber.

~~{See note at claim 5}~~

11. (currently amended) A multi-layer laminate of high porosity between two internal layers thereof, one of which is bonded to the other with lateral fibers traversing parts of both layers, one or both of such layers including bi-component fibers of thermoplastic polymers, each fiber including
 - a core of thermoplastic polymer being at least 20 and less than 70% of the fiber by weight, and
 - a sheath being more than 30% of the fiber by weight and including an additive ranging from 0.1 % to 20 % by weight of the fiber and being selected from the group consisting of pigments, compounds creating a hydrophilic surface, and anti-microbial, anti-fungal and anti-odor materials. and means for acquiring moisture vapor into the laminate and trapping it there, one of the internal layers having higher strength properties than the other and the other having a higher moisture retention capacity.
12. (original) The laminate of claim 11, formed as an insertable/removable insole for a shoe or the like.
13. (currently amended) A multi-layer footwear component, including:
 - ~~at least~~ a first layer further including
 - a binder fiber made from low temperature polymer with a melting or softening temperature below 200 degrees C.;
 - an anti-microbial additive of an inorganic compound made from a metal chosen from the group consisting of copper, zinc, tin and silver added to the binder fiber, the additive ranging from 0.1 to 20% by weight of the fiber, and

fibers which are free of anti-microbial additive being blended with said binder fiber, said blend of fibers having been heated to its melting temperature, thereby providing a fiber blend which can be used to produce an anti-microbial finished fabric able to withstand significant wear and washings and maintain its effectiveness; and

~~at least one further~~ second layer proximate the first layer providing support thereto.

14. (currently amended) The footwear component of claim 13, formed as ~~an~~ footwear component selected from the group consisting of an insole, midsole, box toe, counter, and/or lining.
15. (original) The footwear component of claim 13, wherein the anti-microbial fiber is used in the layer which is nearest the foot of a wearer.
16. (original) The footwear component of claim 13, further comprising a support layer of latex attached to the layer containing the anti-microbial fiber.

~~{see note at claim 5}~~

17. (currently amended) A multi-layer laminate of high porosity between two internal layers thereof, one of which is bonded to the other with lateral fibers traversing parts of both layers, one or both of such layers including a binder fiber comprising a low temperature polymer with a melting or softening temperature below 200 degrees C., an anti-microbial additive of an inorganic compound made from a metal chosen from the group consisting of copper, zinc, tin and silver added to the binder fiber, the additive ranging from 0.1 to 20% by weight of the fiber, and fibers which are free of anti-microbial additive being blended with said binder fiber, said blend of fibers having been heated to its melting temperature, thereby providing a fiber blend which can be used to produce an anti-microbial finished fabric able to withstand significant wear and washings and maintain its effectiveness. and means for acquiring moisture vapor into the laminate

and trapping it there, one of the internal layers having higher strength properties than the other and the other having a higher moisture retention capacity.

18. (original) The fabric of claim 17, as an insertable/removable insole for a shoe or the like.